

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph number 1, beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0001] This application is a national stage application under 35 USC §371 (c) of PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/24163, entitled "Battery Characterization Technique," filed on July 26, 2004, which claims priority from~~This application makes reference to~~ Australian Provisional Patent Application No. 2003903839, filed July 24, 2003. ~~Priority is claimed from this application for the present Application.~~ In addition, this application is related to: US Patent 6,227,204, entitled "Device and process for charging of rechargeable batteries of implants," filed May 14, 1999; US Patent Application 09/654,731, entitled "Transcutaneous Power Optimization Circuit for a Cochlear<sup>TM</sup> Implant," filed September 5, 2000; US Patent Application 10/257,170, entitled "Battery Monitor and Power Demand Adjuster," filed October 8, 2002; and US Patent Application 09/962,898, entitled "Multiple Battery Management System" filed September 25, 2001 and US Patent Application 10/883,809, entitled "Transcutaneous Power Optimization Circuit for a Cochlear<sup>TM</sup> Implant," filed July 6, 2004. The entire disclosure and contents of the above applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein.